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**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Maneuvers of the Armed Forces, July 1952

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1. "General maneuvers of the Albanian Armed Forces were held from 15 Jul to 28 Jul 52 in the Lushnje - Permet area.
2. "Before these general maneuvers each division held its independent maneuvers. The Brigades Mbrojtjes Bregdetare (Division of Coastal Defense Artillery) of Durres held maneuvers in the Kavaje - Lushnje area from 5 May to 17 May 52. There was a regulation of the Ministria Mbrojtjes Kombetare (Ministry of People's Defense - MMK) that each recruit must participate in two divisional maneuvers and two general army maneuvers.

3. "The following units participated in the general July maneuvers:

1st Division - Tirana:

Reparti Kamsoris (Infantry units)  
 Reparti Antitanks (Antitank units)

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Reparti Mitrolozi te Rand Maxim (Heavy Maxim Machine Gun units)  
 Reparti Xhenier (Engineers)  
 Reparti Nderlidhje (Communications unit)  
 Reparti Toge Drejtimit (Divisional Chief of Staff)  
 Reparti Mbrapavia - Sek. Politik (Rear Services - Political Section)

2nd Division - Korçe

Reparti Kamsoris  
 Reparti Xhenier  
 Reparti Nderlidhje  
 Reparti Toge Drejtimit  
 Reparti Mbrapavia - Sek. Politik

3rd Division - Gjinokastër

Reparti Kamsoris  
 Reparti Artilerie 76 mm (76 mm Artillery unit)  
 Reparti Xhenier  
 Reparti Nderlidhje  
 Reparti Toge Drejtimit  
 Reparti Mbrapavia - Sek. Politik

Brigades Mbrojtjes Bregdetare - Durrës

Reparti Artilerie 76, 105 and 152 mm  
 Reparti Kamsoris  
 Reparti Nderlidhje  
 Reparti Xhenier  
 Reparti Toge Drejtimit  
 Reparti Mitrolozi Te Rand Maxim  
 Reparti Mbrapavia - Sek. Politik

Division Xhenios E Nderlidhjes (Division of Engineers and Communications) - Tirana

Reparti Xheniervet Rrugës (Road engineers)  
 Reparti Xheniervet Uravet (Bridge engineers)  
 Reparti Xheniervet Tendavet (Tent engineers)  
 Reparti Linja Shtruesvet (Telephone linesmen)  
 Reparti Radio Trasmetuesvet (Radio operators)  
 Reparti Telefonistavet (Telephone operators)  
 Reparti Mbrapavia - Sek. Politik

Regjimenti Tankistavet - Tirana (Tirana Tanks Regiment)

Reparti Tankstavet te Blinduem (Armored tanks)  
 Reparti Autoblindavet te Blinduem (Armored vehicles)  
 Reparti Mbrapavia - Sek. Politik

Reparti Aviacion - Kamsori (Infantry Units of the Air Force)Brigada Rank Division Autonome - Shkoder (Autonomous Brigade, Divisional Rank)

Reparti Kamsori  
 Reparti Xhenier  
 Reparti Nderlidhje

Reparti Shendetsise - Tirana (Units of the Medical Service, from the General Military Hospital, Tirana)

4. [ ] about 25% of the full military strength of each unit listed above took part in the 1952 general summer maneuvers.

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5. [ ] the following officers were appointed members of the General Chief of Staff of the maneuvers:

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Major General Beqir Balluku - Chief of Staff  
 Major General Shefqet Peci  
 Major General Hysni Kapo  
 Major General Sadik Bekteshi  
 Major General Spiro Moisiu  
 Major General Rahman Parllaku  
 Major General Haxhi Lleshi  
 Major General Petrit Dume

6. "The maneuvers were inspected by Enver Hoxha and Mehmet Shehu, and also by three or four Soviet generals [ ]

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7. "The staff of the Brigades Mbrojtjes Bregdetare - Durres for these maneuvers consisted of:

Colonel Teki Koloneci - Chief of Staff  
 Major Xhemal Zeneli  
 Captain 1st Class Mehmet Mulosmani  
 Major Setki Elezi  
 Lieutenant Thoma Lero  
 Lieut. Col. Todi Naci - Member of the Artillery Section of the MMK  
 Lieutenant Haxhi Strazimiri - Chief Topographer of the MMK  
 Major Mehmet Taliati - Member of the Artillery Section of the MMK.

Taliati, Naci and Strazimiri were also inspectors of the Brigades Mbrojtjes Bregdetare.

8. "The units of the Brigades Mbrojtjes Bregdetare marched separately to the maneuver area from the towns where they were stationed:

Durres - Artillery, Communications, Rear Services, Political Section, Chief of Staff  
 Kavaje - Infantry, Heavy Maxim Machine Guns, Engineers, Communications  
 Vlone - Infantry, Artillery  
 Sarande - Infantry, Artillery

Seventy-five per cent of the total military strength of the Shkolla Artilerise Mbrojtjes Bregdetare (Coastal Artillery School) of Durres participated. The kursanti of the School took four days to march from Durres to Permet. They marched continuously about 10 hours a day, with a 10 minute rest every two hours. They were supposed to rest with their feet slightly higher than their heads, lying flat on the ground. They spent three nights en route. Each kursant was dressed in summer uniform and carried German and Soviet rifles, knapsack and one blanket - total weight of 35 kgs.

9. "The maneuvers had the following theme: The Fascist-Monarchist enemy forces were attempting to land in southern Albania; the Albanian People's Armed Forces were to block any landing attempt.

10. "The headquarters for the entire maneuvers were in a forest located east of the town of Berat.

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11. [redacted] during the maneuvers were seven Soviet planes (three engines, single wing), and three Albanian planes which dropped propaganda leaflets.

12. "Every day during the maneuvers each soldier received a Buletini Lojes Armatos (Daily Bulletin of Maneuvers). This was printed at the maneuver headquarters of Berat by the Dega Politik of the Army. The Albanian planes dropped this bulletin along with the propaganda leaflets.

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13. [redacted] at Berat an armored car [redacted] but without the antiaircraft machine guns and with regular machine guns instead of the large guns). [redacted] heavy tanks [redacted] but without the machine guns in the turret and with a smaller type of gun).

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14. "Following were the military passwords used by Forces B during the maneuvers:

First battle;	Password - <u>Ushtria Popullore</u> Counter password - <u>Clirimtari</u>
Second battle;	Password - <u>Luftari</u> Counter password - <u>Clirimtari</u>
Third battle;	Password - <u>Armata Triumfue</u> Counter password - <u>Fitoria</u>

Each password had a validity of three days. A person who knew the password was entitled to enter even the Pika Vroitimt of Forces B and all units of Forces B.

15. "In these maneuvers the Chief of Operations of Forces A was Major General Shefqet Peci. He was assisted by two or three Soviet officers. The Chief of Operations of Forces B was Major General Rahman Parllaku, also assisted by several Soviet officers. During the second battle, on 23 Jul, [redacted] an inspection of the Pika Vroitimt of Forces B by Major General Sadik Bekteshi, Major General Shefqet Peci, Major General Petrit Bume and two Soviet Colonel Generals. These Soviet Generals then inspected the operations from the observation post of the Pika Vroitimt. The Pika Vroitimt was a trench dug on a high hill. From there the staff officers directed the maneuvers. Instruments for calculating artillery fire were all located there. The trench is covered with typical camouflage netting.

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16. "The soldiers used Soviet-type tents, which are the type used by the Albanian Army. An antiaircraft trench was dug next to each tent, for protection against machine gun attack from planes.

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17. "There were three main trouble points in these maneuvers:

- (a) Lack of infirmaries and medicines.
- (b) Bad roads, which meant delayed transports which meant shortages of food and water.
- (c) Many traffic accidents. A NCO of the 2nd Infantry Division, Korce, and one of the Brigada Autonome Rank Division, Shkoder, each had to have their arms amputated.

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18. "The maneuvers ended 28 Jul. A general meeting of the high staff officers was held at Berat at the maneuver headquarters. The final Buletini Lojes Armatos listed the winning units:

- 1st - 3rd Infantry Division of Gjinskaster
- 2nd - Brigades Mbrojtjes Bregdetare of Durres
- 3rd - 2nd Infantry Division of Korco.

Military personnel were awarded premiums and medals. Military medals for acts of heroism can only be awarded by the Kuvendit Popullor, on nomination of the Mnk. During maneuvers, however, all participants are considered on active battle duty. Thus Enver Hoxha, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, could award certain officers. The citations were not announced. One officer who received a medal, the Urdher I Klasit II (Order of the 2nd Class), was Aspirant (fnu) Nazmi, Political Kommissar of the Reparti Ushtarak Nderlidhje (Military Telecommunication Unit) of Durres. He also received a gold wrist watch and promotion to the rank of N/Toger.

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19. "The officers returned by car to their original units; the soldiers marched back with the NCO's. Many of the soldiers were so tired marching that they deserted and reached their original stations by civilian buses or by train. Four kursanti from the Coastal Artillery School returned to Durres by train from Rrogozhine. They were reprimanded before the entire battalion of the Artillery School. Some Party members of the school returned by civilian vehicles, but they were not penalized.

20. "It should be emphasized that all units of the Armed Forces took part in these maneuvers except the Navy, the Mbrojtia Popullore (People's Defense), the Sigurimi Shtetit (Security Forces) and the Garda Palatit (Palace Guard Brigade). The Navy holds its own maneuvers, during the three months of training cruises in the year."

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